

REMARKS

As provided above, in response to this Restriction Requirement, Applicants have provisionally elected, with traverse, restriction group I (claims 526-554, and 577-585) drawn to reporter signal peptides having about 10 to about 35 amino acids, including an Asp-Pro sequence.

In support of their traversal of the restriction requirement, Applicants respectfully note that, for a restriction requirement to be proper, it must establish that both:

- (A) The inventions are independent or distinct; and
- (B) There must be a serious burden on the examiner if restriction is required (see MPEP §803).

Applicants respectfully assert that the restriction requirement presented has not established both of these criteria.

In particular, Applicants respectfully assert that there would be no undue burden on the Examiner to search both the claims of elected group I (claims 526-554, and 577-585) and the claims of restricted group II (claims 555-576), because all of the claims of nonelected group II involve methods of using the signal peptide probes of elected restriction group I. Accordingly, there can be no additional burden in searching restricted group II when the claims to elected group I are searched. Applicants therefore respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement and have provided a distinct and specific basis for this traversal.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully perverse the right to rejoinder of nonelected claims 555-576 upon a finding of patentability of linking claims 526 and 546, from which they depend (see MPEP §§ 821.04(a) and 818.03(d)).

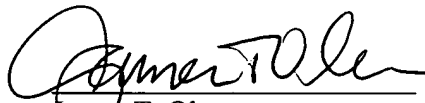
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully believe the elected claims are in good condition for allowance, and so further and favorable consideration on the merits of the claims of record is respectfully requested.

The one month due date for this Response, February 11, 2007, fell on a Sunday, and, accordingly, this Response should be considered timely filed on the following Monday, February 12, 2007. Therefore, no further fees are believed to be due at this time, however, if such further fee is due or a credit is owed, please make them to our Deposit Account No. 08-0219. If there are any questions, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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